

REMARKS

Claims 1, 24, and 52 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 24 and 52 can be found at least in original claim 3 and in the specification on page 7, lines 8-17. New claim 77 incorporating features of claim 1 and claim 63 has been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 3, 62-64, and 66-76 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Upon entry of this response, claims 1-2, 4-60, and 77 will be pending.

Incorporated here are the remarks contained in the Amendment filed on November 2, 2006, in response to the Office Action dated August 8, 2006 ("the August 8 Office Action"). Applicants now have further revised the claims, as noted above, to expedite allowance of the present application.

Applicant appreciates the indication in the August 8th Office Action that claims 3, 7-14, 17, 20-21, 23, 25, 27-29, 31, 33-35, 37, 39, 41-43, 54, 56-59, 63, 64, and 66-71 contain allowable subject matter. Amended claim 1 incorporates certain features from claim 3, now cancelled, but not the feature of performing the initial measuring and initial storing "at a manufacturing site," an aspect not deemed essential. Thus, applicant submits that the patentability of claim 1 is amply underscored by recited features from claim 3.

Independent claims 24 and 52 have been amended in a manner that tracks the aforementioned changes to claim 1, and are likewise believed to be patentable. New independent claim 77 combines the recitations of pre-amendment claim 1 with features from claim 63, and also is believed to be patentable. The other pending claims depend from one of claims 1, 24 and 52, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, and to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment accompany this response, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to the same deposit account. If any extension of time is needed for timely acceptance of submitted papers, then Applicant

hereby petitions for such extension under 37 CFR §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fee from the deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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